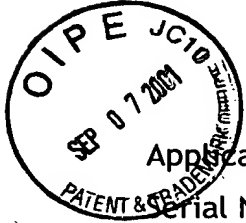


#4A

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Donald Henry Willis

Serial Number : 09/904,022

Filed : July 12, 2001

For : MODIFYING VIDEO SIGNALS BY CONVERTING NON-INTRA PICTURES

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Hon. Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Please amend the above identified application as follows.

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Page 7, line 3 delete paragraph and replace with,

A1
--To locate the P pictures to be decoded and/or re-encoded, the searching engine 16 can search the video signal by locating each picture's start code. Once a start code is located, the searching engine 16 can signal the control CPU 14. The control CPU 14 can then determine whether the picture is an I, B or P picture by focusing on that particular picture's start code. The control CPU 14 can then signal the decoder 18 to decode the appropriate number of P pictures; similarly, the control CPU 14 can signal the encoder 20 to re-encode any number of the decoded P pictures into an I picture thereby replacing one or more P pictures with an I picture and creating a modified video signal. Once modified, the video signal can be sent to the record buffer 22 where the signal can be temporarily stored. From the record buffer 22, the signal can be received by the controller 24 and then recorded onto the storage medium 26. This overall process will be explained in greater detail below.--

Certificate of Mailing under 37 CFR 1.8

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in a postage paid envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on the date indicated below.

Date: September 5 2001 Signature: J. A. Vaneport